

17 DEC 1998



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Charles G. Carter  
Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell, Welter & Schmidt  
3100 Norwest Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Mr. Carter,

This is in response to your letter received 21 September 1998 inquiring about the status of U.S. national stage patent application number 09/011,940 filed 22 August 1996. The application is currently being processed by the United States Designated/Elected Office (US/DO/EO). Applicant will receive a communication shortly concerning the results of this processing.

Sincerely,

Sally Gardner-Lane:sgl  
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